

REMARKS

Claims 1-41 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-41 were rejected. Claims 1, 23, 36, and 39 have been amended.

The Examiner objected to the drawings. The requested changes to the drawings have already been submitted in the Response filed by the Applicants on March 22, 2005. A copy of this filing and the stamped return receipt post card have been provided herewith. The objection is believed addressed thereby.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-10, 12, 13, 16, 20, 21, 23-26, 28, 31, 35-37, 39, and 40 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA). The Examiner also rejected claims 1, 5, 11, 18, 19, 22, 23, 27, 33, 34, 36, 38, 39, and 41 over AAPA in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2001/0037435 A1 (Van Doren). Finally, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 14, 17, 23, 29, 32, 36, and 39 over AAPA and Van Doren and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,188,759 (Lorenzen). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has indicated that he is interpreting the term "previously specified" which modifies "partitioning schema" as "prior to building the routing tables," i.e., immediately prior. The Examiner states, therefore, that the claims of the present application read on the "greedy algorithm" described in the Background of the Invention of the present application in that the greedy algorithm first identifies available system resources and then builds the routing tables (thus enabling the links) according to this "previously specified schema." The Applicants respectfully disagree that such an interpretation is reasonable.

As is made clear in both the claims and the specification of the present application, the partitioning schema of the present invention is specified prior to the commencement of the partition building process. One of ordinary skill in the art would understand the phrase "previously specified partitioning schema" as recited in the claims of the present application to

have this connotation. The Examiner's interpretation that "previously specified" means after system configuration begins, but immediately prior to the final step of the configuration process, does not conform with the clear meaning as evidenced by the present disclosure and as would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Applicants have amended claims 1, 23, 36, and 39 to more clearly describe the invention. Specifically, the independent claims of the present application have been amended to clarify that the "previously specified partitioning schema" is "defined prior to beginning the configuring of the resources into the at least one partition." This further distinguishes the claimed invention from the greedy algorithm which begins its configuration of resources prior to having the information necessary to build the routing tables. That is, by definition, the greedy algorithm *must* begin the process of configuring the available resources to generate this information. In view of the foregoing, the rejection of claims 1, 23, 36, and 39 is believed overcome. The rejection of claims 2-22, 24-35, 37, 38, 40, and 41 is also believed overcome for at least the reasons discussed.

The foregoing amendments are not believed to be necessary in view of the clear meaning of the claims as they are currently constituted, but are being proposed to move prosecution of the present application forward. As such, these amendments are made for clarification purposes only, and not for any reason related to patentability.

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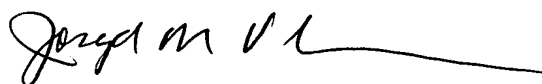
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CONCLUSION

In view of the fact that none of the art of record teaches the partitioning techniques recited in the claims of the present application, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (510) 663-1100.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph M. Villeneuve", followed by a long horizontal flourish line.

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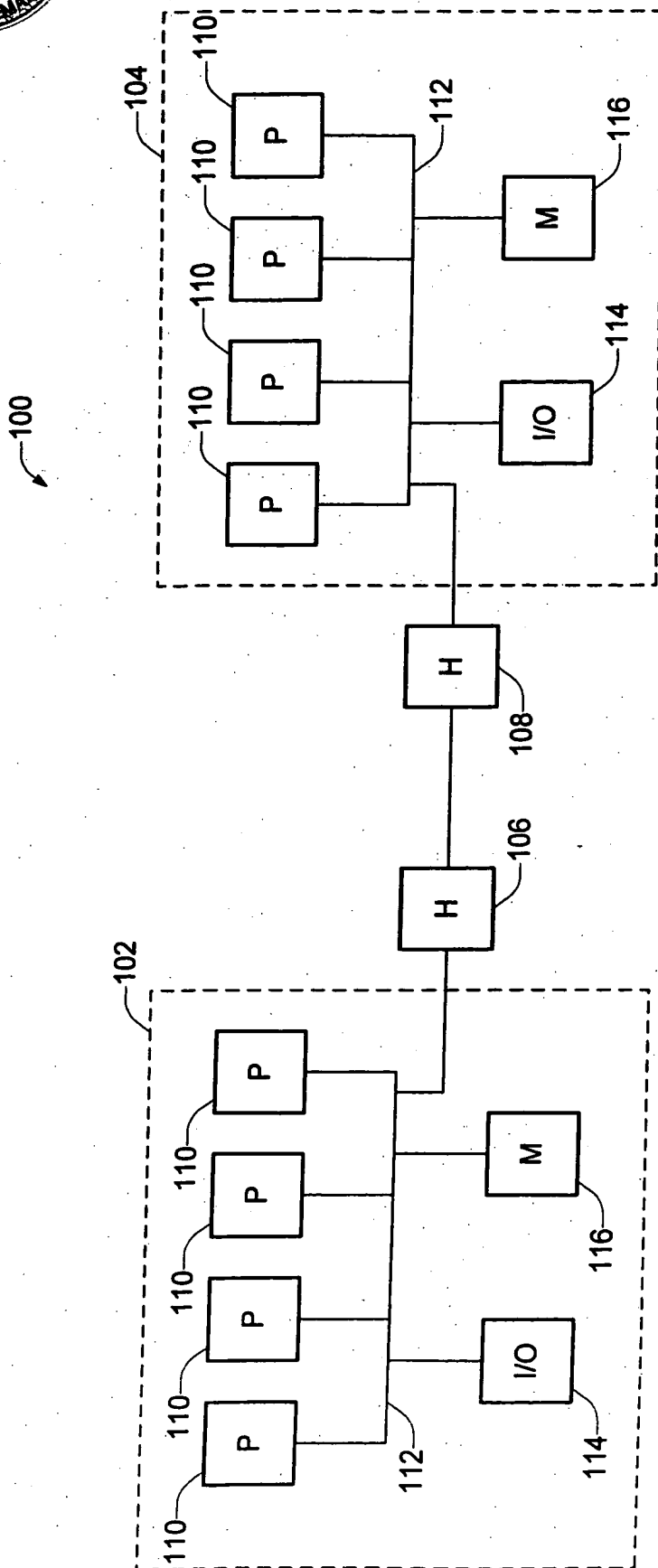


Fig. 1
(Prior Art)

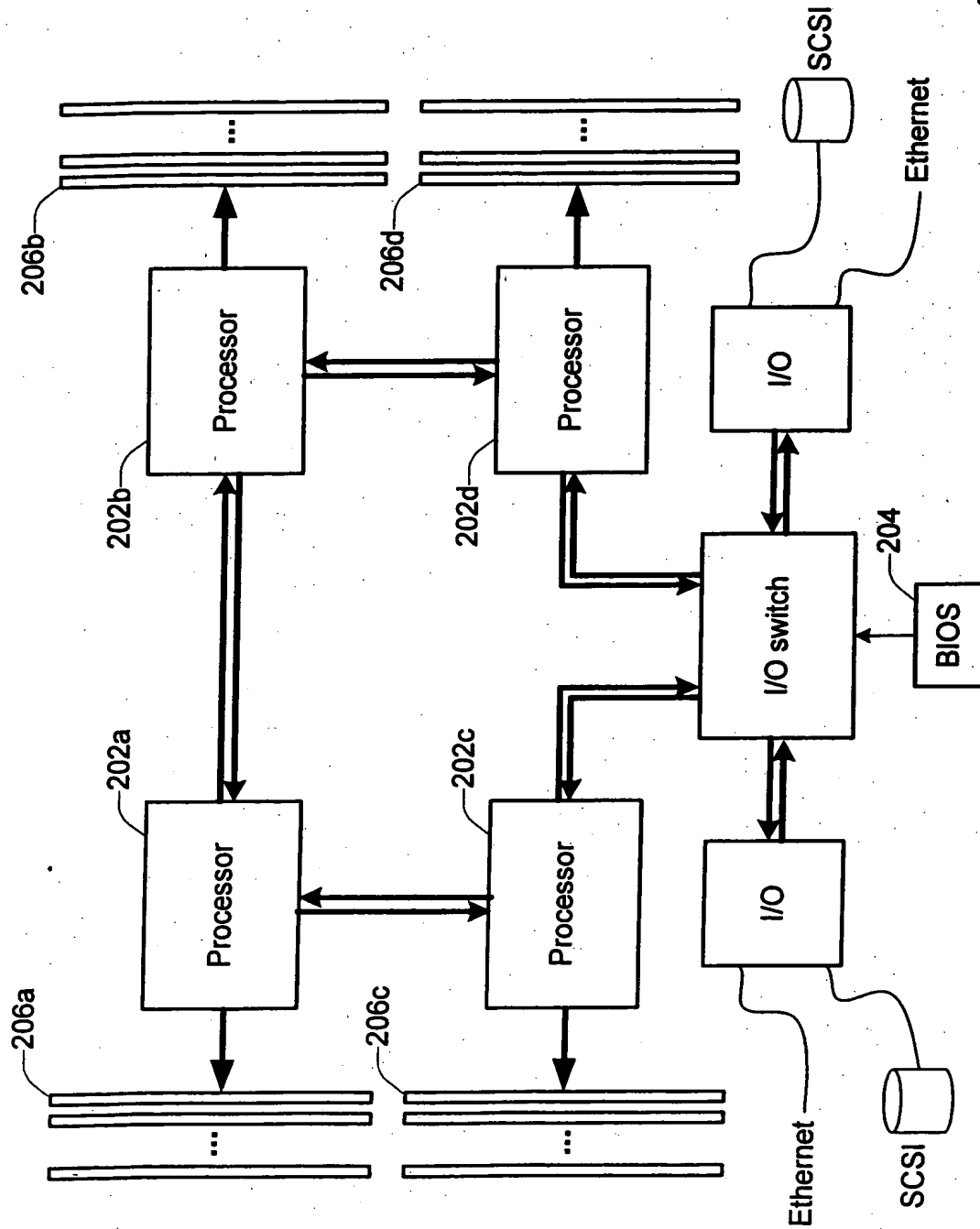


Fig. 2
Prior Art